



I H I E @ 40 Celebrating Excellence



Graham Bignell IEng FIHIE MIHT
Managing Director, Denis Wilson Partnership

Graham encountered a “truly dynamic careers adviser” on leaving school, who took seriously his wish not to be deskbound, and helped him follow his father into the industry. Graham always wanted to mix outside work with office responsibilities, and was attracted “to the visible end product of work in the industry.”

Graham is particularly excited by projects that help to enhance the quality of the built environment. He points to one of the Company’s major achievements at the Middle Temple Law Courts in London. Over several years, they have removed the non traditional carriageway and footway paving materials within this prestigious and historical setting and replaced them with reclaimed granite setts and York Stone paving.

He strongly believes in the importance of implementing environmentally sensitive projects, as being a major contribution to society which the industry can make.

Graham, in common with many in the industry, is very concerned about the growing shortage of able experienced people available for immediate employment in areas requiring a high degree of technical expertise. This is very apparent in the Highways Planning area and he says: “we are all chasing the same qualified engineers, a fact which is exacerbated by the lack of training for young engineers trying to make their way in the industry. Much more needs to be done to improve the attractiveness of the career today.”

A keen cyclist, he wants Government to do more for cyclists, especially to reintroduce proficiency courses for youngsters, who “leave school with little or no knowledge about safety and road use.”

He sees a contradiction between Government enthusiasm for cycling, and the lack of training opportunities, especially in major cities with challenging traffic flows and multiple distractions.

At the top of Graham’s priorities is the goal of “running a very professional consultancy which services client’s needs and provides the outcomes they are striving to achieve”. He has “recently completed a five year business plan to deliver and exceed targets whilst providing his client with an exceptional service delivery.”

He notes that increased local authority requirements and standards, however, inevitably mean “less road per pound spent.” Nonetheless, he regards his as a “vibrant industry and a good one to belong to.”